

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4773
INFO SECDEF WASHDC OASD/ISA
DA WASHDC DAMO/SSA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY ECJ4/7 SARA-T

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2218

CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SU
SUBJECT: FY-78 IMET-SUDAN

REF: (A) STATE 41170 (DTG 240116Z FEB 77)
(B) STATE 44414 (DTG 282323Z FEB 77).

SUMMARY: EMBASSY BELIEVES US MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SUDAN IS TOO SMALL RELATIVE TO IMPORTANCE USG NOW ATTACHES TO COUNTRY. WITH RELATIVELY MODEST INCREASE IN FUNDING BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE DRAMATIC MOVE WHICH WILL BE HELPFUL AND WELCOME TO SUDANESE AND HELP FURTHER OUR INTERESTS IN SUDAN. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, REQUESTS THAT FY-78 IMET PROGRAM FOR SUDAN BE REVIEWED AND FUNDING BE INCREASED TO \$200,000- \$250,000. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LIGHT RECENT BASIC POLICY DECISION TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH SUDAN, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM (IMET) FOR SUDAN NO LONGER APPROPRIATELY REFLECTS IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRY TO US. WHEN IMET PROGRAM WAS RESUMED
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HERE IN FY-77, LATE IN BUDGETING CYCLE, USG WAS ABLE PROVIDE \$100,000 WITH WHICH WE WERE ABLE SEND ABOUT 15 SUDANESE OFFICERS TO US. THIS WAS HIGHLY APPRECIATED BY SUDANESE INCLUDING PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HIMSELF, ALTHOUGH SUDANGOV WANTED TO SEND AT LEAST TWICE AS MANY OFFICERS.

2. IN PAST YEAR PROGRAM APPEARS TO HAVE WORKED WELL.

DURING THAT TIME BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED MARKEDLY AND PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING DECISION SELL C-130S, INCREASE COMIDEASTFOR VISITS AND ASSIGN DEFENSE ATTACHE HERE, SMALL IMET PROGRAM NO LONGER ACCURATELY REFLECTS US-SUDAN MILITARY RELATIONS. AT SAME TIME SUDANESE SECURITY CONCERNS HAVE INCREASED AND A MAJOR EFFORT HAS BEGUN TO IMPROVE ITS ARMED FORCES. SUDANGOV PLACES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE AND PROFESSIONAL VALUE ON US MILITARY TRAINING INCLUDING COURSES AVAILABLE UNDER IMET.

3. CONSIDERING DESIRE BY SUDANESE TO INCREASE IMET PROGRAM IF POSSIBLE AND PRESENT STATUS BILATERAL RELATIONS WE BELIEVE THAT BY MODEST INCREASE OF FY-78 IMET PROGRAM FOR SUDAN FROM PRESENT \$100,000 LEVEL (WHICH BECAUSE OF HIGHER COSTS REPRESENTS ACTUAL REDUCTION IN TERMS NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO CAN BE SENT TO US) TO \$200,000-250,000 LEVEL, WE CAN DOUBLE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM SUDAN. THIS WILL BE SEEN TO BE SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF PROGRAM WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE POLITICAL RELATIONS AND HELP MEET OUR OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH SUDAN. MOREOVER, WITH EXPECTED ARRIVAL SOON OF ADDITIONAL STAFF, EMBASSY WOULD BE ABLE ADMINISTER LARGER IMET PROGRAM.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) DEPARTMENT REQUESTED REVIEW FY-78 IMET PROGRAM FOR SUDAN AND INCREASE FUNDING FROM PRESENT LEVEL TO APPROXIMATELY \$200,000-\$250,000 WITH A VIEW
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TOWARD DOUBLING NUMBER OF SUDANESE OFFICERS WHO CAN ATTEND US MILITARY COURSES IN UNITED STATES, AND (B) ASSUMING (A) IS APPROVED, REQUEST REPS FROM USCINCEUR (ECJ4/7- SARA-T) VISIT KHARTOUM IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER TO REVIEW FY-78 PROGRAM WITH APPROPRIATE SUDANESE OFFICIALS.
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